gauge conversion project from Shyamsundar (Rainagar) to Chanchai has been completed recently. The cost of this 20.90 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 47.77 crore. The work will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Retail rail ticketing in A.P.

4036. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any action plan to proliferate retail rail ticketing and for improvement in customer services at railway counters and stations in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (b) With a view to improving selling of tickets and customer services in the state of Andhra Pradesh, the following important steps have been/been taken:—

(i) Extension of computerised Passenger Reservation facility at 14 additional locations.

(ii) Self-Printing Ticket Machines for issue of unreserved tickets have been provided at important stations.

(iii) National Train Enquiry System (NTES) terminals have been provided at important locations for obtaining information regarding the train running position.

(iv) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and Passenger Operated Enquiry Terminals have been provided at important stations for enquiries at stations.

Doubling of Ghaziabad-Moradabad rail line

†4037. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of Ghaziabad-Moradabad section of rail line, in which year the foundation stone was laid and the work started for its conversion into double line;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) how many kilometers of double line has been laid by December, 2001; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to lay double line in the remaining part?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The total length of Ghaziabad-Moradabad section is 141 Kms. No foundation stone was laid for doubling of this work. However, the work of Ghaziabad-Hapur doubling Phase-I (37 Kms) was sanctioned in the year 1995-96. Subsequently, the work of Moradabad-Amroha and Amroha-Kankather has also been sanctioned and work is in progress. The work of Hapur-Kankather doubling is yet to be sanctioned.

(b) 37 Kms of double line from Ghaziabad to Hapur has been commissioned as on December, 2001.

(c) No target date has been fixed as yet.

Railway projects in Iraq

4038. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects which were to be executed by the Railways in Iraq in 2001-2002;

(b) the number of projects pending at the stage of negotiations with the Government of Iraq;

(c) the action being taken by the Railways for completion of projects and the details of negotiations going on;

(d) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to stop executing all the projects, till the situation in the Gulf dissipated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Priced offer have been submitted by KRCL for two projects. However, no negotiations with Govt. of Iraq have been held so far. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has also been signed Government of Iraq